

## *Twelve Articles*

- 1 Lest it may more quarrels breed  
I will never hear you read.
- 2 By disputing I will never  
To convince you, once endeavour.
- 3 When a paradox you stick to,  
I will never contradict you.
- 4 When I talk, and you are heedless,  
I will show no anger needless.
- 5 When your speeches are absurd,  
10 I will ne'er object one word.

- 6 When you furious argue wrong,  
I will grieve, and hold my tongue.
- 7 Not a jest, or humorous story,  
Will I ever tell before ye:  
To be chidden for explaining  
When you quite mistake the meaning.
- 8 Never more will I suppose  
You can taste my verse or prose:
- 9 You no more at me shall fret,  
20 While I teach, and you forget;  
10 You shall never hear me thunder,  
When you blunder on, and blunder.
- 11 Show your poverty of spirit,  
And in dress place all your merit;  
Give yourself ten thousand airs  
That with me shall break no squares.
- 12 Never will I give advice  
Till you please to ask me thrice;  
Which, if you in scorn reject,  
30 'Twill be just as I expect.

Thus we both shall have our ends,  
And continue special friends.